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Approved For Release 2003/12/19 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000400020010-0

NSC BRIEFING

14 October 1954

OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Communist shelling of Quemoy has continued during the past week at reduced rate (less than 100 rounds per day). Most of this fire on Little Quemoy, where civilians now have serious problem.

A. Between 400 and 600 homes there destroyed, population using caves for shelter.

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D. According to Peiping radio, Fukien garrison has told troops they "expected to inflict greater blows" on Nationalist forces, "strive for greater victories."

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II. Nationalists at Quemoy have not attacked mainland targets since 28 September.

A. Taipei press claims suspension of bombing due to US advice; gives Communists a new "Yalu sanctuary" in Fukien, serves to "reneutralize" Formosa.

B. Such public statements could lead Peiping to attack islands in belief US anxious to avoid hostilities.

C. Danger of this could increase if Communists were to observe reduction of US forces in area.

III. In Tachen area, Communists continue air patrols: artillery has again fired on Nationalist Ichiang Island.

A. Still no signs that Communist invasion troops assembling, although could be done with little warning.

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- IV. Nationalist navy at Tachens more aggressive--DE patrols extended north close to Communist-held Choushans. In 10 October clash, two Nationalist DE's sank two Communist patrol vessels which escorting nine motorized junks, damaged several of convoy.
- V. No significant reports concerning Matsus.